

ON FINAL

JANUARY 2017

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING



**OKIES DEPART
FOR DEPLOYMENT TO TURKEY**

COVER PHOTO

AWAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing prepare for deployment Dec. 12-13, 2016, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Family and friends gathered to say farewell to the Airmen prior to their departure. Ninety-four Airmen are deployed to Turkey for 60 days in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

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COVER PHOTO : U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan

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VICE WING COMMANDER
Col. Dana N. Nelson

WING COMMAND CHIEF
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen A. Brown

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Wing staff won the wing's inaugural Holiday Office Decorating Contest, and the theme was "Okies of Christmas Past," with former commanders, chiefs and insignia adorning the Christmas trees. Gen. Curtis LeMay, the father of the Strategic Air Command, had his own fireside command center complete with rotary telephone, aircraft encyclopedia and the stockings of all the 507th's former aircraft hung on the mantel. The office won a traveling trophy and plans to defend the title again next holiday season. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Talisa Edmundson)



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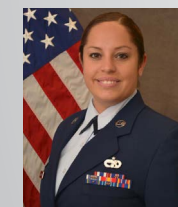
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Cell (918) 271-1677



Master Sgt.
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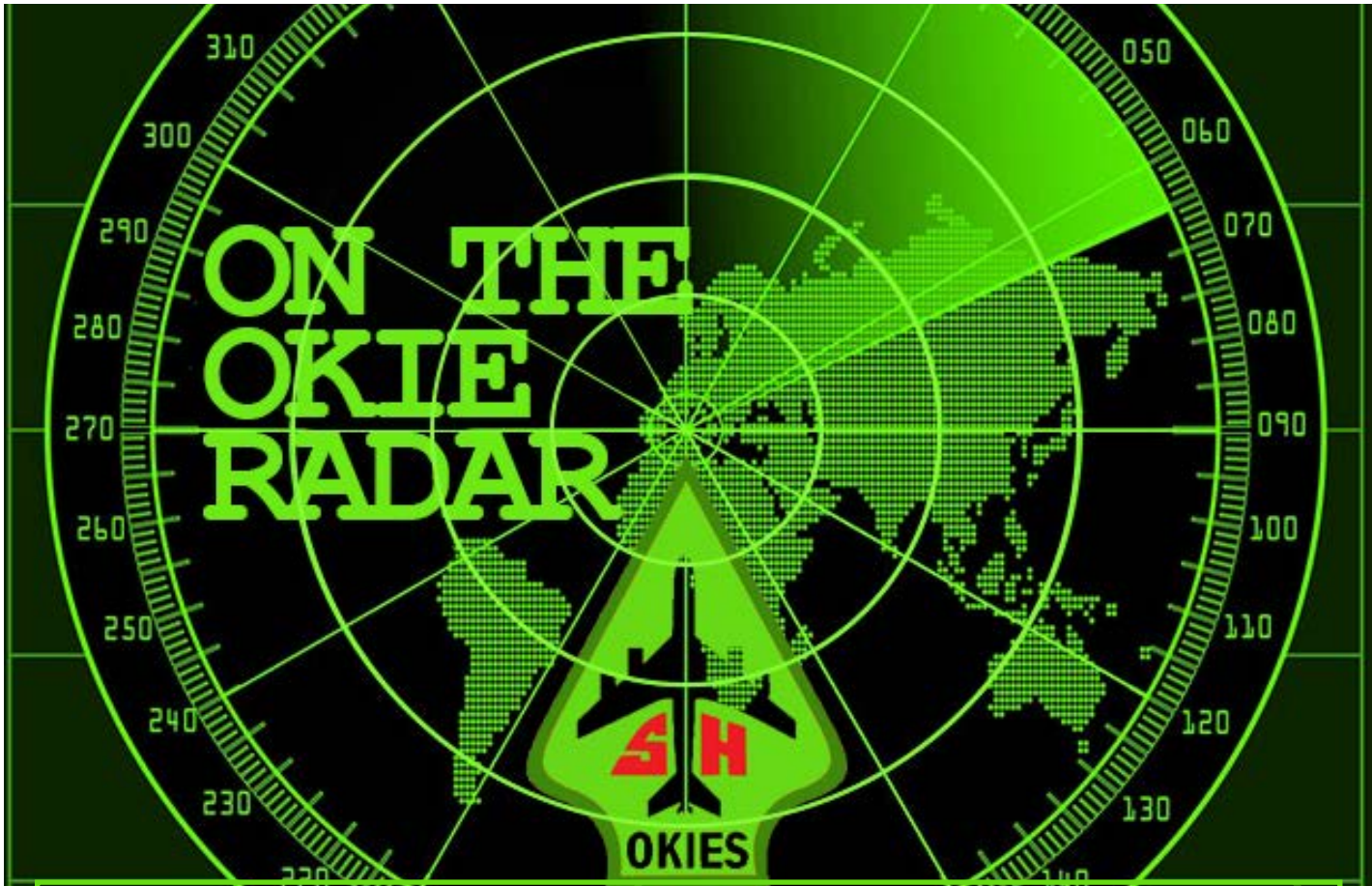
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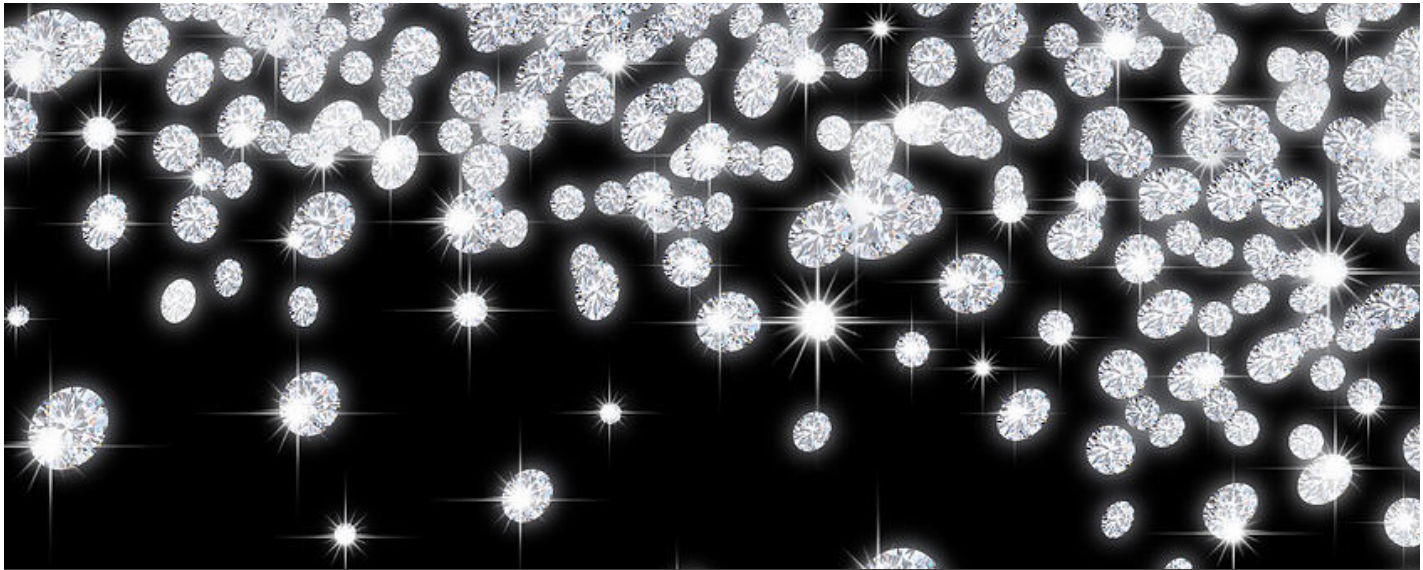
IOS USERS



ANDROID USERS



JANUARY UTA JAN. 7-8 SHAREPOINT/AFRIMS/SAV TRAINING SEE PAGE 12 FOR SCHEDULE JAN. 7-8 5TH QUARTERLY AWARDS DUE NLT 1600 JAN. 7 ANNUAL AWARD PACKAGES DUE NLT 1600 JAN. 12	MARCH UTA MARCH 25-26 NORI MARCH 22-29 UCI MARCH 30-APRIL 5
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THE 507th AIR REFUELING WING PRESENTS
2016 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

FEBRUARY 4, 2017

SOCIAL HOUR BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M.
DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

TINKER CLUB BALLROOM
6120 ARNOLD STREET
TINKER AFB, OK 73145





PHANTOM'S PHINALE

A QF-4 Phantom flies over Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., during the "Phinal Phlight" event Dec. 21, 2016. This event marked the end of the aircraft's 53 years of service to the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Eboni Prince)

By Tech. Sgt. Matthew Rosine,
49th Wing Public Affairs Office

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.
(AFNS) --

The ground marshal raises his hands into position – the signal. The jet’s engines begin to rumble louder and louder and louder.

The baritone rumble fills the flight line, electrifying the air.

It’s time for the launch.

With a mighty roar from the growling engines, QF-4 Phantom II, AF 349, jumped forward with excitement.

The same excitement washed across the flight line over the hundreds of people in the crowd at Holloman Air Force Base.

Some cheered. Some smiled. Some snapped photos as fast as they could. But everyone was focused on AF 349.

This was her moment.

Lt. Col. Ronald King, her pilot, grinned and eased her forward on the way into history. Today was Dec. 21. This was the final flight of the QF-4

Phantom – the final flight of AF 349 – and after 53 dedicated years of superior service, the final flight of the Phantom II would be done right.

“This has been a humbling experience,” said King, the Det. 1, 82nd Aerial Target Squadron commander.

“Just hearing the sound of this aircraft is awesome. It is the sound of freedom.”

“There is no way to truly understand what this aircraft has done without talking to the people who lived it.”

The F-4 Phantom II entered military service to the Air Force in 1963. In the early years, it served as the primary fighter-bomber of the Air Force un-

til aircraft production ended in 1979.

On top of its outstanding combat record, the Phantom was also optimized to fly more specialized missions. The RF-4 was a reconnaissance aircraft built for speed, while the F-4 “Wild Weasel” terrorized enemy anti-aircraft missile installations.

The Phantom also became a beloved icon of air superiority beyond its combat service to America. It set 15 world records, including aircraft speed – 1,606 miles per hour – and absolute altitude – 98,557 feet. It is also the only aircraft to be flown by both the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

It earned beloved nicknames such as Double Ugly, Old Smokey and the Rhino, which made many aircraft fans love it all the more.

“What can I say about the F-4?” said Clint Richards, a civilian F-4 aircraft fan who shared the final flight ceremony with his 3-year-old son, Isaac. “The Phantom was the first model airplane I had as a kid. Just hearing the sound of this aircraft is awesome. It is the sound of freedom.”

VIDEOS



AIRMEN'S MOMENTS



PHANTOM'S FINAL FLIGHT

TINKER CITIZEN AIRMEN DEPLOY TO TURKEY

By Maj. Jon Quinlan

Ninety-four Citizen Airmen from the 507th Air Refueling Wing here departed for a deployment Dec. 12-13 to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, to support Operation Inherent Resolve with KC-135R Strato-tanker air refueling support.

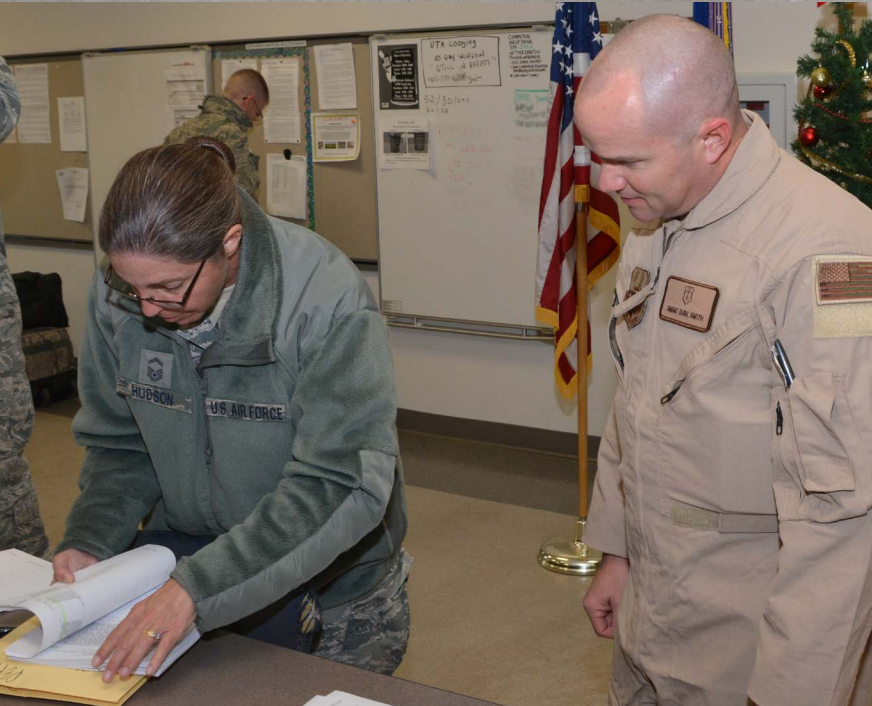
The group of Reserve Airmen, made up of a mix of operations and maintenance group professionals, is one of the largest groups to leave from Tinker this year to support ongoing operations against the Islamic State group.

“The nation’s business is why we are all here,” said Col. Travis Caughlin, 507th Maintenance Group Commander. “We’ve spent a long time training and preparing and it’s very worthwhile when you get to go execute what’s really going on. It doesn’t get any more real than this.”

The group is scheduled to deploy for two months, which is shorter than previous deployments in Air Force Reserve Command. This realignment is partially designed to improve operations by keeping maintenance and operations teams together during home station training and while deployed.

While the deployment may be shorter, the 507th ARW will be deploying again in the summer of 2017. With operations in South-west Asia continuing, support from the Air Reserve Component is vital, according to wing leadership.

“I’m convinced tankers are the key to global reach,” said Caughlin. “If we don’t get there, then fighters, bombers and airlifters won’t get there without the tanker. We’ve got to get that gas to the warfighter.”



Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing prepare for deployment Dec. 12-13, 2016, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Family and friends gathered to say farewell to the Airmen prior to their departure. Ninety-four Airmen are deployed to Turkey for 60 days in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. (U.S. Air Force photos/Maj. Jon Quinlan and Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)





A CLOSER

LOOK

*Congratulations
to our
Quarterly Award Winners,
4th Quarter 2016*

AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER
SENIOR AIRMAN HEATHER ATHERTON

NCO OF THE QUARTER
TECH. SGT. CHRISTOPHER CLARK

SNCO OF THE QUARTER
SENIOR MASTER SGT.
JACQUELINE JOHNS-JACOBSON

CGO OF THE QUARTER
2ND LT. RYAN CHENEY

SHAREPOINT, SAVs AND AFRIMS TRAINING

**LRS CLASSROOM
BLDG. 1048**

THE 507TH COMMUNICATIONS KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT OFFICE WILL CONDUCT TRAINING SESSIONS THIS DRILL WEEKEND.

THE TRAINING SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP PLEASE EMAIL [KAREN.ZUEST@US.AF.MIL](mailto:karen.zuest@us.af.mil) TO RESERVE A SEAT.

RESERVATIONS WILL COME FIRST, THEN FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

SHAREPOINT 101
SUNDAY 1400-1500

This class will cover the basic operations of Sharepoint.

**RECORDS MANAGEMENT:
FILE PLAN STAFF ASSISTED VISITS**
SUNDAY 0900-1000

This training is mainly for FARMs but will be beneficial to RCs as well. We will go over all the assessment areas of a file plan SAV, how to document the SAV in AFRIMS and how to input responses.

**RECORDS MANAGEMENT:
AFRIMS 101**
SUNDAY 1000-1100

This training is mainly for RCs. We will cover the requirements of a file plan, how to create one in AFRIMS and how to get approved. We will also talk about what comes after creating a file plan in AFRIMS.



January PROMOTIONS



JUSTIN MALZER, 507 MXG
CHRISTINA PRINGLE, 507 SFS

MASTER SERGEANT

BOBBY JACKSON, 465 ARS
CAREY FROST, 507 MXS
JAMES ANDRUS, 507 AMXS
SHANNON HIELSCHER, 507 AMXS
LISTA KUSKOWSKI, 507 SFS
JEFFERY WITTE, 513 MXS
WILLIAM TURNER, 507 CES

TECHNICAL SERGEANT



JASMINE BROWN, 465 ARS
THOMAS RABON, 507 MXS
MYKAL SHORT, 507 MXS
JESSE COY, 72 SPS
WALTER BOLLES, 513 OSS
SAMUEL ROCHIN, 507 CES
JASMINE FULLER, 513 MXS
JOSEPH STINNETT, 513 AMXS
RYAN SWAIM, 507 CES
TRENT HARGIS, 513 AMXS



STAFF SERGEANT

JASMIN MENDOZA-MADRID, 970 AACs

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS



GRANTING WISHES AT VETERANS ANGEL TREE

Story and photos By Maj. Jon Quinlan, 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

For the 21st year in a row, Airmen from Tinker stepped forward to support the residents of the Norman Veterans Center by delivering gifts and spreading a little Christmas cheer during their annual Christmas party Dec. 22, 2016.

The Air Force Reserve-run program, dubbed “Angel Tree,” strives to fulfill Christmas gift wishes for the

disabled veterans residing at the center. This year, in addition to the 25 Citizen Airmen, a group of more than 10 Airmen from the Oklahoma Air Logistics Center also joined in on the fun.

According to a long-time volunteer in the program, Tech. Sgt. Herbert Briscoe of the 507th Maintenance Squadron, this is a great way to honor these vets.

“These men and women come from all walks of life, yet all served their country as a team,” Briscoe said. “It’s a special feeling to deliver gifts to the residents and to show them that others appreciate their service to our country.”

Briscoe has volunteered every year and encourages all Airmen to take some time and go talk with these humble Veterans.

“Sometimes we feel like we have it rough, but talking with the Veterans helps put things in perspective. Many of these Veterans lived away from home for one or two years, rarely getting to communicate with family.”

In addition to buying Christmas gifts for the veterans, the 507th Air Refueling Wing also donated \$1,458.57 for the field trip account. This will allow the Veterans to attend baseball games, go to the zoo and enjoy the state fair.



Master Sgt. Jon Russell of the 507th Maintenance Squadron delivers a gift bag and listens to Norman Veterans Center resident talk about his time in the U.S. Army Dec. 22, 2016 in Norman, Okla.



ABOVE: Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Heath, 507th Mission Support Group administrative assistant, shows a Veteran one of his Christmas gifts during the annual Norman Veterans Center Christmas Party Dec. 22, 2016 at the Norman Veterans Center in Norman, Okla. This year marked the 21st year that the 507th Air Refueling Wing has participated in the annual Christmas party at the center. BOTTOM RIGHT: Senior Master Sgt. Gary Wagner of the 507th Maintenance Group and his two sons visit with a Veteran Dec. 22, 2016, at the Norman Veterans Center in Norman, Okla.



Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Mesenbrink of the 507th Maintenance Squadron presents a gift card to a resident of the Norman Veterans Center Dec. 22, 2016, in Norman, Okla.



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN



Former Public Affairs Chief for the 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office, retired Lt. Col. Richard Curry, visited the wing to check everyone's lists twice. "Santa Curry" gave the wing a satisfactory nod of approval for the year before taking off on his sleigh. (U.S. Air Force photos/Maj. Jon Quinlan)



SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING TAX SEASON



Courtesy photo

By Capt. Justin A. Mitchell,
27th Special Operations Wing
Office of the Judge Advocate

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. -- The Internal revenue Service is expected to begin accepting 2016 Tax Returns on Jan. 24, 2017. While some of us may be used to getting our refunds in early January, many refunds will be delayed several weeks this year because of a new law and increased safeguards against identity theft and fraud. For those claiming the earned income tax credit or the additional child tax credit (a refundable tax credit for parents), you won't see your money until after February 15, even if you are an early filer.

That said, the IRS has issued numerous statements reminding taxpayers that most refunds will be issued within the normal timeframe - less than 21 days - after being accepted for processing by the IRS. After applying, you can check on the status of a refund by going to www.irs.gov/refunds,

downloading the free IRS2Go application to your smart phone or calling the automated refund hotline at 1-800-829-1954.

One issue that is near and dear to our command is combat zone deadline extensions. In a year, we have hundreds of Cannon personnel deploying to places around the world. Spouses: don't stop reading here, this extension applies not only to the deployed active duty member, but also to their dependents.

In general, when deployed, the deadlines for performing certain actions applicable to our air commandos' taxes (i.e. filing and making payments) are extended for the period of their service in the combat zone, plus 180 days after the last day in the combat zone. While not all deployments are within combat zones, some of the currently recognized combat zones are Afghanistan, and the Kosovo and Arabian Peninsula areas.

However, just because they may not be in a recognized combat zone,

members of the United States Armed Forces who perform military service in an area outside a combat zone qualify for the extension of time provisions if their service is in direct support of military operations in the combat zone, and they receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger as certified by the Department of Defense. Please reach out to your legal office if you have any questions regarding countries which have been certified by the DoD for combat zone benefits. They range from Pakistan and Djibouti to Jordan and Lebanon.

Generally, the IRS is notified that the Airman is deployed in one of these zones, but to confirm that they have received that information, you should e-mail the deployed member's name, stateside address, date of birth, and date of deployment to combatzone@irs.gov or call the IRS main helpline at 800-829-1040.

If you have any questions, please contact your legal office for specific guidance.

SPORTS commentary



WILL REST HELP OR HURT THE COWBOYS?

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor
Sports Reporter Extraordinaire

The National Football League's regular season has concluded, and the playoffs begin this weekend with the Wild Card round.

One of the teams who get the chance to rest before playing in next weekend's Divisional round is the Dallas Cowboys, who have home-field advantage for as long as they stay in the post-season.

The Cowboys surprised many fans and media members by going 13-3 during the season. Things looked bleak when star quarterback Tony Romo went down in the preseason. Based on what happened when Romo went down last season, which saw the team go 4-12, concern would be understandable.

The difference this season was Dallas had two rookies ready to step in and thrive in their roles. QB Dak Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott have not only become the two prime candidates for Rookie of the Year, they are both also in the running for the league's Most Valuable Player.

Behind Prescott and Elliott, the Cowboys have the best record in the NFC, and have revived a franchise that was in desperate need of new life. Now they sit at home, waiting to see who they play next.

There are a lot of teams who would love to be where Dallas is right now. Any time play-

ers can get the chance to rest after a long and grueling regular season, it would appear that could only help.

Having said that, recent history has shown rest could have mixed reviews. The last three seasons, teams who got to skip Wild Card Weekend have won the Super Bowl. In the three years before that, Wild Card teams have won the big game. The New York Giants and Green Bay Packers, who play each other Sunday, were two of those teams to ride the Wild Card wave to the title.

The Giants and Packers are widely looked at as the biggest threats to Dallas. New York is looked at as particularly dangerous, considering they beat the Cowboys twice this season.

With everything considered, Dallas is in the best spot. The question now is does the rest refresh them, or hurt the rhythm they developed during the season. I don't believe there is a right or wrong answer for this question, but the answers will differ depending on who's asked.

One thing is for sure. The Cowboys, and their fans, have been treated to a pleasant surprise this season. So if things don't turn out the way they would like, the big picture should not be lost in the shuffle. Losing Romo was looked at as a death blow. What they got were blessings in disguise. It will be interesting in the coming weeks to see where this magic carpet ride ends.

Maintenance crews from the 507th Maintenance Group troubleshoot the number three engine of a KC-135R Stratotanker at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. prior to the flight leaving for a deployment to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The engine issue was quickly resolved and the aircraft departed with Citizen Airmen and cargo Dec. 13, 2016 to the deployed location to support on-going air refueling operations in Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)

